

The Adult Basic Education Authorization

What is the Adult Basic Education Authorization?

The authorization is the only credential issued by CDE Educator Licensing for educators who work with adult learners to improve literacy skills, English language proficiency and/or to prepare them to pass the GED test.

Colorado Educator Licensing issues this authorization with authority from the State Board of Education under Colorado Code of Regulations 301-37, Rules for the Administration of the Educator Licensing Act of 1991, as amended by Regulation 2260.5-R-4.16. It is valid for five years.

To receive the authorization, individuals must document a foundational knowledge in adult basic education (English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education, and Adult Secondary Education) by demonstrating proficiency in the competencies in the four required courses.

What are the goals of the Adult Basic Education Authorization?

- Foster professionalism in Colorado's adult basic education workforce by:
 - ◊ Standardizing the basic knowledge and skills individuals need to teach in adult basic education programs in Colorado
 - ◊ Providing an entry point to the field of adult basic education
 - ◊ Recognizing and validating the expertise and knowledge of experienced adult educators
- Require participation in professional development activities to maintain and update knowledge and skills

How did the Adult Basic Education Authorization (formerly LIA) originate?

The effort to create minimum standards for adult basic education instructors in Colorado began in the late 1970s. Successful applicants received a certificate from the state adult education association through the work of volunteers. This program was phased out and during the 1980s and 90s there was not a credential available to adult educators due to lack of state level support. In 2002, a workgroup was formed to develop a credential. In 2004, the State Board of Education authorized CDE Educator Licensing to issue the LIA. The first authorization was awarded in 2005. To learn more about the history of the authorization, see the Appendices of the ABE Authorization Handbook in Section 10.

How can the Adult Basic Education Authorization be obtained?

For each course, there are three options for documenting proficiency in the course competencies - complete the coursework, obtain approval of already completed equivalent college or university credit coursework, or obtain approval of a portfolio.

To be eligible to apply for the authorization, candidates need to be legal residents of the U.S., have a transcript or Certificate of Equivalency for each of the four required courses, proof of an associate degree or higher, a completed background investigation from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation that meets CDE requirements and the ability to pay the application fee charged by Educator Licensing. Details about obtaining and applying for the authorization are available in other sections of the ABE Authorization Handbook.

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Why do adult educators need the Authorization?

There is much state and national focus on teacher quality and effectiveness. The Division of Adult Education and Literacy (DAEL) in the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) at the US Department of Education has invested significantly in these efforts. The availability of a credential is one way to strengthen teacher quality and effectiveness and to establish adult basic education as a professional field.

The authorization is the only state-issued credential for adult educators in Colorado. It is the minimum professional standard for instructors in Colorado adult education programs that receive AEFLA funding. Individuals must have the authorization to be hired or be willing to obtain it within a specific timeframe. The authorization is also a professional standard for instructors who teach in Colorado Department of Corrections facilities.